

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

DATE: April 13, 2026

TO: County Clerk, County of Riverside (County)

PROJECT CASE NO/TITLE: NOE 26-02: First Amendment to the Third Amended and Restated Importation Agreement for Disposal of Solid Waste with Burrtec Waste Industries, Inc.

PROJECT LOCATION: East Valley and West Valley Transfer Stations (EVTS and WVTS), located at 1150 & 1250 South Tippecanoe Ave., San Bernardino, CA 92408, and 13373 Napa Street, Fontana, CA 92335, and alternative Burrtec contracted facilities.

Riverside County regional landfill sites, namely, the Badlands Landfill, 31125 Ironwood Avenue, Moreno Valley, CA and the Lamb Canyon Landfill, 16411 Lamb Canyon Road, Beaumont, CA 92223

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Approval to extend the existing Agreement between the County and Burrtec Waste Industries, Inc., (Burrtec) for disposal of solid waste. The approval would extend the Agreement for an additional 20 years, consisting of four (4) five-year periods. The First Amendment revises the amount of imported municipal solid waste (MSW) annually to a minimum of 200,000 tons, up to a maximum of 250,000 tons, to be delivered from facilities under control of Burrtec. Imported MSW will be delivered to the Badlands or Lamb Canyon landfills, for which both landfill sites have sufficient capacity to accept the MSW.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING PROJECT: County of Riverside (County)

PROJECT SPONSORS: Department of Waste Resources (RCDWR)
Burrtec

The project is exempt from the provisions of CEQA, specifically by the State CEQA Guidelines as identified below. The project will not result in any specific or general exceptions to the use of categorical exemptions as detailed under State CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2. The project will not cause any impacts to scenic resources, historic resources, or unique sensitive environments. Further, no unusual circumstances or potential cumulative impacts would occur that may reasonably create a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical environmental impact.

EXEMPT STATUS:

- Ministerial
- Declared Emergency
- Emergency Project
- Statutory Exemption: **Section 15273, Rates, Tolls, Fares Charges**
- Categorical Exemption: **Section 15301, Existing Facilities**
- Other Exemption: **Section 15061(b)(3), General Rule**

REASONS FOR EXEMPTION:

Section 15061(b)(3) - General Rule Exemption

The activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects, which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Based upon the entire record, the Project would not result in the potential for any significant effect on the environment. This determination is an issue of fact and sufficient evidence exists in the record that the activity will not have a significant effect on the environment. As such, the exemption applies and no further evaluation under CEQA is required. See *Muzzy Ranch Co. v. Solano County Airport Land Use Comm'n* (2007) 41 Cal. 4th 372.

This project is exempt under Section 15061(b)(3) because:

The proposed Project simply involves extending the term of the existing Agreement and adjusting the tonnage requirements. The Project involves no expansion of approved uses and would not have a cumulatively significant effect on the environment or environmental resources. As such, the Project meets the scope and intent of Section 15061(b)(3), General Rule Exemption.

Section 15273. Rates, Tolls, Fares, and Charges

CEQA does not apply to the establishment, modification, structuring, restructuring, or approval of rates, tolls, fares, and other charges by public agencies which the public agency finds are for the purpose of:

- Meeting operating expenses, including employee wage rates and fringe benefits,
- Purchasing or leasing supplies, equipment, or materials,
- Meeting financial reserve needs and requirements,
- Obtaining funds for capital projects, necessary to maintain service within existing service areas, or
- Obtaining funds necessary to maintain such intra-city transfers as are authorized by city charter.

This project is exempt under Section 15273 because:

The proposed Project involves extending the term of the existing Agreement between the County and Burrtec for disposal of solid waste and adjusting the tonnage requirements. Revenue generated from the Project is for the purpose of meeting operating expenses, financial reserve requirements, and obtaining funds for capital projects necessary to maintain service within existing service areas. As such, due to the administrative nature of the Project, no environmental resources will be affected; therefore, the Project meets the scope and intent of Section 15273, Statutory Exemption.

Section 15301 Categorical Exemption.

Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination.

This project is exempt under Section 15301 because:

The proposed Project involves extension of the existing Agreement between the County and Burrtec for disposal of solid waste and adjusting the tonnage requirements. Imported MSW will be delivered to the Badlands or Lamb Canyon landfills, for which both landfill sites have sufficient capacity to accept the MSW. Implementation of the Project would not exceed permitted thresholds and involves negligible expansion of the existing uses. Therefore, the Project as proposed meets the scope and intent of Class 1 Categorical Exemption.

FINDINGS:

1. Based upon the identified exemptions and justifications above, the RCDWR, on behalf of the County, hereby concludes that the Project is a continuation of the existing use and significant environmental effects are not anticipated to occur, and the Project as proposed is exempt under CEQA. No further environmental analysis is warranted.
2. The proposed Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines sections 15061(b)(3), 15273, and 15301.
3. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that this Project would have a direct, indirect, or cumulatively significant effect on the environment; therefore, the activity is exempt under CEQA as previously identified.

If there are any questions regarding the above matter, I can be reached at (951) 486-3200.

**Andy Cortez, General Manager - Chief Engineer
Riverside County Department of Waste Resources**

By: *Katherine Veliz*
Katherine Veliz

Title: Senior Planner

Date: April 13, 2026